

the U.S. and South Pacific theatres during World War II.

During the war, she was part of the 9th General Hospital originating in Fort Devens, MA, and then shipped to Townsville, Australia.

In 1944, she was transported to the Southwest Pacific, where she served in New Guinea during the battles that took place. She was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for her service.

On February 18, 1945, she was promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant.

In June of 1946, she married Fred C. Stearns from Winchester, NH, and the two had four children: Linda, Diane, Gail, and Sally.

Evelyn raised her three girls while employed at the Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, NH, as the operating room supervisor. There, she was known as "Our mother, the owl." Tough, but fair, Evelyn didn't miss a trick.

After 22 years there, she retired in 1982.

Evelyn is known around the city of Claremont for her daily walks, often in excess of 5 miles a day, up until the age of 98. She also found great joy in maintaining her home inside and out until the day she left, 6 months ago. Her work ethic exhausted her children and grandchildren, who were amazed at her tenacity.

She continues to be an avid bridge player, and enjoys crosswords and reading mysteries.

Among her family, Evelyn has seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WENDY DiVECCHIO

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Wendy DiVecchio on becoming the chief executive officer of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, GLVAR. It gives me great pleasure to recognize DiVecchio's recent success and her dedication to the great State of Nevada.

Founded in 1947, GLVAR has always led our State in professionalism. GLVAR, the Nevada representative for the National Association of Realtors, is the largest professional organization within southern Nevada, providing 13,000 of its members educational resources, professional training, and political representation. GLVAR has truly made an impact on our State, specifically in Las Vegas.

As a longtime resident of Las Vegas, DiVecchio has served in several different departments within the GLVAR for over 17 years, holding many of the company's crucial positions. Over the years, DiVecchio served as educational director, national chairwoman for local and State Realtor associations, and interim CEO. Recognizing her exceptional efforts, DiVecchio also earned the Realtor Certified Executive designation from the National Association of Realtors. While working full-time at GLVAR, she also earned a bachelor's

and master's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix.

In her new role, DiVecchio will oversee more than 30 employees and all other aspects of the GLVAR, including its move into a new headquarters located in southern Las Vegas. Although she will be faced with more responsibility, DiVecchio has proven she is up to the task and will succeed to her fullest potential.

As Nevada's senior Senator, I applaud DiVecchio's impressive feats and commend her for demonstrating such valuable commitment and loyalty to GLVAR. I am both humbled and honored by her hard work, and I am proud to call her a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wendy DiVecchio on her recent promotion to GLVAR's CEO and wish her well in her future endeavors. I give my deepest appreciation for all that she has done for the Silver State.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STACEY ESCALANTE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stacey Escalante of Las Vegas. Stacey is a Nevada mother who battled cancer and won. Ever since she defeated cancer, Stacey has taken herself to new heights and translated her strength into action. Her story makes us all proud to call Nevada home.

Stacey Escalante was diagnosed with stage 3 skin cancer over 10 years ago when she was still a news reporter for KVBC, now KSNV-TV. Up until this point, she was a model for health, but as we all know, cancer is a disease of its own. After several medical procedures, constant trips to the doctor, Stacey had to endure years of screenings and follow-up medical procedures before the cancer finally went into remission. During this time, she was forced to take a leave of absence from her job in order to recover. Even worse, she had to spend an extended period of time away from her family and friends.

During this recovery, Stacey wanted to come back home. She knew she would recover if she got to be at home surrounded by her family and coworkers who cared deeply about her. Fortunately, Stacey was able to return home and be with her family and friends; there she continued to fight cancer tooth and nail.

After she recovered, Stacey didn't just go back to work and pick up where she left off. Instead, Stacey became a cancer survivor, willing to stand up for cancer patients and those unaware of the dangers that tanning beds can cause to the human body. Stacey also remains incredibly active, a hard-working single mom who is still dedicated to living a healthy lifestyle. Despite time away from her career, Stacey worked through the setbacks and is now a publicist at Orca Communications and continues to have an exciting career in public relations.

Stacey's battle with cancer and getting to where she is today is a testament to her determination. She has a passionate story to tell, and I believe that she will continue to inspire others to do the same. She epitomizes what it means to fight back and go even further by spreading the word about the dangers posed by tanning beds and advocate for other women's health issues. I am truly inspired by her story.

I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Stacey Escalante for her perseverance and willingness to share her story and get involved to make the great State of Nevada an even stronger, healthier State. I wish her continued efforts the absolute best. I will continue to pray for her as well as her wonderful family and friends who stood by her side every step of the way.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATT JONKEY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate LTC Matt Jonkey on completing his master of arts degree in security studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, CHDS. It gives me great pleasure to recognize him for his recent success and his continued dedication to serving the great State of Nevada.

CHDS is our Nation's epicenter for homeland security education located at the Naval Postgraduate School, NPS. Among the many programs CHDS offers, its masters program is exceptionally prestigious and provides its graduates with a vast array of useful skills. Additionally, the program offers extensive analysis of the security operation within the United States. To complete this intense 18-month program, CHDS graduates must exercise unconventional critical thinking skills, advanced leadership tactics, and develop a comprehensive understanding of security policy and operations.

In addition to graduating from the University of Nevada at Reno with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, lieutenant colonel Jonkey also managed to build an impressive career within the Nevada National Guard. He has held several positions with many responsibilities, ranging from aviation management to weapons of mass destruction response. Currently, lieutenant colonel Jonkey serves as commander of the 92nd WMD-CST where he oversees the Nevada National Guard's response to weapons of mass destruction and other HAZMAT-related disasters in support of civil authorities. Furthermore, lieutenant colonel Jonkey is also an outstanding father to his two daughters and a loving husband to his wife, Ashley.

During his time in the CHDS program, lieutenant colonel Jonkey engaged in strategic and organizational debate with high-level, national security operatives across the country. Additionally, lieutenant colonel Jonkey